

CLAIMS

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5 1. A product catalogue production system comprising a data storage means for storing product data in the form of product codes and associated product attribute data items, said data storage means having a data structure allowing a plurality of product attribute data items to be associated with a product code, said data structure structuring the product data, when a plurality of product attribute data items are associated with a given product code, in the form of a plurality of product data records each including the
10 given product code and an associated product attribute data item.

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15 2. A product catalogue production system according to claim 1, wherein the attribute data item is an attribute code associated with an attribute value, and the attribute value is associated with the attribute code in a separate data record.

3. A product catalogue production system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said plurality of product data records are stored in one storage table of a relational database.

20 4. A product catalogue production system according to any preceding claim, wherein said data storage means is further for storing

product classification data in the form of classification data records associated with said product codes.

5. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4,
5 wherein said product code/classification data association is a many-to-many association.

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6. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4 or
5, wherein said storage means is further for storing product structure data,
10 whereby a set of possible attributes is defined for a product falling within a product classification, and product structure control data, whereby a product structure is associated with a product classification.

7. A product catalogue production system according to claim 6,
15 wherein said product structure data is in the form of a plurality of product structure data records each including a product structure code and an associated product attribute control data item.

8. A product catalogue production system according to claim 7,
20 wherein said product data records include a field for storing an attribute control data item stored in an associated product structure record.

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9. A product catalogue production system according to any of claims 4 to 8, wherein a classification data record is for storing a pointer to a further classification data record, to define a relationship in a classification hierarchy.

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10. A product catalogue production system according to claim 9, wherein said pointer is a pointer to a parent classification data record.

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11. A product catalogue production system according to any of claims 4 to 10, wherein said classification data records are for storing classification data in the form of classification codes and associated classification attribute data items, said data storage means having a data structure allowing a plurality of classification attribute data items to be associated with a classification code, said data structure structuring the classification data, when a plurality of classification attribute data items are associated with a given classification code, in the form of a plurality of classification data records each including the given classification code and an associated classification attribute data item.

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12. A product catalogue production system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of classification data records are stored in one storage table of a relational database.

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13. A product catalogue production system according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the classification attribute data item is an attribute code associated with an attribute value, and the attribute value is associated with the attribute code in a separate data record.

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14. A product catalogue production system according to claim 13, wherein the attribute values associated with a classification record in the data storage means may also be associated with an otherwise unrelated product record, by means of said attribute code.

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15. A product catalogue production system substantially as hereinbefore described.

16. A data store for a product catalogue production system, said data store having a data storage structure substantially as hereinbefore described, in particular with reference to any of Figures 2 to 5 of the accompanying drawings.

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